

Mitchell has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mitchell has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Mitchell has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mitchell Karl Wolbert for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call votes 79 and 80 on Monday, February 6, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 79 and 80.

IN HONOR OF MONSIGNOR MICHAEL J. DOYLE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monsignor Michael J. Doyle on the occasion of the City of Camden, New Jersey naming a street in his honor on Monday, February 6, 2017. This street is in proximity to Sacred Heart Church, which Father Doyle has shepherded since 1974.

Monsignor Doyle is a man of conviction who was born in Ireland in 1934 and came to the United States of America by boat. He chose the Catholic Diocese of Camden for his priestly vocation in the late 1950s and started serving the City of Camden in 1967. Before taking the helm at Sacred Heart, he taught students in Diocesan schools.

Always willing to fight for what he believed was right, Monsignor Doyle helped plant crosses memorializing Camden City's murder victims in front of Camden City Hall when he felt more could be done to stem rampant violence. In the 1970s, he was a staunch opponent of the Vietnam War. He's known to those in his parish as someone who is not afraid to fight for peace.

Monsignor Doyle is also known for his service to the poor, as well as his poetry. Actor Martin Sheen narrated a documentary entitled "Poet of Poverty" which focused on Monsignor Doyle's poetry and letters to his congregation.

While the City of Camden has its challenges, Monsignor Doyle chooses to focus on the beauty of the community he calls home. His congregation consists of people from the City, but also a large number of individuals visit Sacred Heart from surrounding suburbs.

Monsignor Doyle has been a champion of the arts and community gardens. He has been a longtime advocate for improved housing, better medical care, community beautification and better educational opportunities for his neighborhood. He believes his two greatest

achievements are keeping his parish school open, and opening a community gym called the Doyle Fieldhouse, where all are welcome.

For these reasons and countless more, it is fitting that we honor this man for his great works and contributions. His dedication to God, the City of Camden, his parishioners and his community are unrivaled. I am fortunate to know him. And as a resident of the City of Camden, I can say our City is grateful to have him as a faithful steward. Thank you, Monsignor Doyle for what you continue to do for us all.

HONORING CHERYL REDGATE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National School Counseling Week, and to honor a treasured member of my community and school counselor at Santa Fe High School, Cheryl Redgate. Ms. Redgate has been a counselor at Santa Fe High School for 35 years and is an inclusive and caring support system for her students. She has dedicated her life to empowering students and instilling in them the values of selflessness and giving, and she has made a tremendous impact on the lives of every student she meets.

In addition to her position as counselor, Ms. Redgate serves in many leadership roles at Santa Fe High School. She has been the leading representative for the school's anti-drunk driving program "Every 15 Minutes," leading parent debriefs for the parents of those who participated. She designed Parent Education Day and the Service Learning Program, which acknowledges students for their participation in community service and reinforces her dedication to teaching the values of selflessness and giving.

Ms. Redgate has devoted her life to helping others. She founded the Christmas Family Program to provide gifts for those in need during the holidays, and the Serenity Center which acts as a safe zone on campus where licensed clinical social workers are available for students.

Santa Fe High School is a special place because of dedicated professionals like Ms. Redgate, and I couldn't be more proud to honor her today. If more people were like Ms. Redgate, the world would be a much nicer place. In honor of National School Counseling Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all the school counselors who are making a positive impact in the lives of our students.

HONORING COLBY LAYNE MATTHYS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colby Layne Matthys. Colby is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active

part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colby has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colby has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Colby has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colby Layne Matthys for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA'S VITAL FLOOD PROTECTIONS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the investments in flood control infrastructure made by local flood control agencies in California, as well as by the State itself. Water in California is feast or famine. For the last five years we have had a famine, and now we have a feast.

During the massive California floods of 1997, 9 lives were lost, 120,000 people were evacuated and roughly 23,000 homes and businesses were damaged across the state. The greater Sacramento area, part of which I represent, is the 2nd most flood prone region in the United States, behind only New Orleans. Mr. Speaker, my constituents take flood protection very seriously.

Because of this, there are many local agencies spearheading critical projects throughout my district that I'd like to recognize, including the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, the Yuba County Water Agency, the Marysville Levee District, the City of Woodland, the City of West Sacramento, Reclamation District 2140, the State of California, and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also played a pivotal role in all of these projects and should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, floods do not recognize the boundaries of congressional districts. Therefore, Congressman LAMALFA and Congresswoman MATSUI should also be praised for their work on flood control as many of the projects undertaken by the agencies I mentioned have a footprint in all of our districts.

There is no question that investment in flood control pays dividends. In 2006, California voters passed Proposition 1E which provided \$4.09 billion in flood control infrastructure. To date, almost all of that funding has been allocated. These bonds, in tandem with investment from local flood control agencies and the federal government, have funded significant improvements in many, but not all of, the levees that protect my constituents.

Those improvements were highlighted this winter, when almost all of the state's rivers and reservoirs were filled to capacity. Statewide rainfall between October and December of 2016 was 143 percent of the historical average while combined inflows to California's reservoirs were the 2nd highest in recorded history. Yet the levees held and we were able to avoid any major flooding.